



Mantel Farm Shop
01424 830357
info@mantel-farm.co.uk
Chicken Boarding, Garden Farming
and Smallholding Specialists
Catsfield, Near Battle, East Sussex, TN33 9BN
Farm shop opening hours - Thu, Fri, Sun 10am-4pm



MAY NEWSLETTER

- Topics:**
- .. New arrivals and a sad goodbye
 - .. Our local weather forecast
 - .. Special Offers, New Products and Services:

Quail available from 14th May
Hybrid Hens
New Animal Cottage in stock
20% off Poultry Shield
Hatching Eggs
£10 health check and worm test
Groundworks contact
Sussex Festival of Beekeeping

New arrivals and a sad goodbye...

We have been busy outside, now the ground has dried out sufficiently we have been able to hire Mark and his digger to mend our track, so many thanks to you all for putting up with the lumps and bumps over the winter and we hope you find the drive a little easier now! (Please see Marks details below – he comes highly recommended if you need any works carried out).

The bees have been really busy during sunny days and it is great to hear them buzzing in the fruit trees. Having been beekeeping for the last few years it has become something that we all really enjoy and so it was a real shock when I became allergic to bee stings. Since then I have carried out limited beekeeping and last summer felt I was not giving the bees here the attention they needed, so our plans had to change. Not wanting to give up on beekeeping we have looked for ways around the problem and a local beekeeper has kindly offered to manage a couple of hives here along with a few young colonies for sale, so you may see Roger around in his beesuit from time to time. We have set up a new apiary just outside the shop, well away from our customer's path, but in view from the shop windows so it will be easier to keep an eye on how the bees are doing from day to day, something I will really appreciate and we hope our customers will enjoy watching too. I will now be able to do a little beekeeping with Roger keeping a careful eye, and Dan is half way through a great beginner's course with Hastings and Rother Beekeepers, so he will also be involved. So, Saturday was a really exciting day for us here, with our first colony of bees arriving to the new apiary in their 'nuc box'. Once they have settled we will be moving them into a Cedar WBC hive, and soon the next colony will be housed in a National hive, so both hives available for sale in our shop will be in use and on view.



We are very sad to let you know we recently lost 'Solar' our Gold Brahma cockerel. Solar had become a real pet and a farm mascot, featuring in our sales sheets and attending many shows. He was able to free range around the farm but unfortunately with the many jobs to do here we forgot one evening to close his door and the fox took his chance! It has been a real reminder to us of how important fox protection is, especially this time of year, and although we have to accept that mistakes happen we remind you all not to take chances. We have now stepped up our fox protection around the farm, and run through a list of pens to double check we have remembered everything each night. On the plus side we still have a young family of Brahmas here and Solar has fathered many of the Brahmas we have sold from the farm and so I am sure there are lots of 'little Solars' giving as much pleasure to other families as he did to us.

Also around the farm we have finally purchased 2 new wheelbarrows for the shop – it's funny how the little things in life bring a smile to so many faces! We were lucky enough to find a blue tit nest in our hose reel (more on facebook) and we have some new housing for sale and pure breed hatching eggs available.

More info on daily things from Mantel Farm in Dans diary:

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Diary

Our local weather forecast for May...

Tim's weather forecast with thanks from
www.sussexanglingmedia.co.uk

Tim is really busy campaigning as a local MP at the moment so we didn't trouble him for a weather forecast this month, however up to date forecasts can be found on his website.

We wish him luck in the elections and look forward to next month's forecast.



Special Offers, New Products and Services:

Quail available 14th May



Our quail will be available from the 14th May. As popular as ever these lovely little birds are just £9.50 each and make great pets, take up little room and produce lots of lovely mottled eggs.

Why not start with our beginners pack for just £135.00. Includes the house, 3 quail, feed and equipment. More info available at:

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectID=9775088&ViewAction=ViewProduct

Hybrid Hens

We have a great selection of lovely looking hens available at the moment, you can find out more about each breed, from egg colour to temperament on our website, or pop into the shop to have a look:

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectID=4254205&ViewAction=FacetedSearchProducts&SearchString=hybrid&FacetValue_CategoryID=4527525



New Animal Cottage in stock



Our Animal Cottage and Chicken Beginners Pack has had an upgrade: Now with an extra long run and wooden roof it makes an even better home for your hens, a great way to keep just a couple of chickens, or more if the extension run is added.

House: £185.00

Beginners Pack including house, hens and equipment: £225.00

More info at:

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Products/AHK-BSK-124&ViewAction=ViewProduct

20% off Poultry Shield

With warmer weather on the way (we hope!) it is important to start to check and treat regularly for red mite in the chicken housing.

So we are currently running a special offer on our poultry shield:

1Ltr Poultry Shield bottles: normally £10.50 **NOW £8.40**

Refills for 1Ltr Poultry Shield Bottles: normally £8.50 **NOW £6.80**

http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectID=5074978&ViewAction=ViewProduct



Hatching Eggs



We have more breeds of Hatching Eggs available including Millefleur, Chamois, Brahma and Peafowl

[http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Poultry For Sale/Traditional Pure Breeds](http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Poultry%20For%20Sale/Traditional%20Pure%20Breeds)

£10.00 Health check and worm test

We are still offering a health check for hens booked into our boarding pens.

For just £10.00 we will carry out a full health check and worm test for you, review the findings and prepare a report with recommendations for your return.

If booking your hens through our website simply note you would like your hens to have our health check and add the product to your basket.



http://mantelfarmshop.co.uk/epages/950003783.sf/en_GB/?ObjectPath=/Shops/950003783/Categories/Animal_Boarding

Groundworks contact



For Fencing, Groundwork and Agricultural Work :
Marks contact details are:

Estate and Lakeside Management

01424 851682

07852 332650

Sussex Festival of Beekeeping

The 2015 Sussex Festival of Beekeeping will take place on 16th May 2015, 10.30am at Heathfield Community College, School Hill, Old Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8RJ.

A great day out for beekeepers; there will be live bee handling demonstrations, workshops, auctions, a raffle and trade stalls.

More info on <http://www.sussexbeefestival.org.uk/>



With best wishes

From Kerry Jason & all at Mantel Farm

www.mantelfarmshop.co.uk